

Message Text

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SUBJ: CRONICA CONTINUES TO REACT TO SECRETARY'S LOS REMARKS

REF: LIMA 6541

1. ON AUGUST 13, THE GOP-OWNED LA CRONICA CONTINUED ITS SHARP CRITICISM OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MONTREAL SPEECH ON LAW OF THE SEA WITH A PAGE-LENGTH, TWO-COLUMN EDITORIAL. THE EDITORIAL IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR PARTS. THE FIRST PART SAYS THAT BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S "STRIKING OUT AS 'UNACCEPTABLE' THE THESIS OF A 200 MILE TERRITORIAL SEA," HE HAS RETURNED TO A POLICY OF "THE BIG STICK (GRAN GARROTE)." IT STATES THAT THE U.S. CONTINUES ON THE "TORTUOUS AND UNACCEPTABLE PATH OF (RESORTING TO) PRESSURES, COERCIONS, AND EVEN AGRESSION, IF NECESSARY."

2. THE SECOND PART OPINES THAT THE U.S. HAS NO COHERENT POLICY WITH RESPECT TO LAW OF THE SEA. IT RECOUNTS ALLEGED U.S. VIOLATIONS OF ITS OWN PRINCIPLES (E.G. SEIZURES OF FOREIGN VESSELS MORE THAN THREE MILES OFF U.S. COASTS) AND POINTS OUT THAT AT GENEVA IN 1958 AND 1960 THE U.S. PRESSED FOR ADOPTION OF A SIX-MILE TERRITORIAL LIMIT.

3. THE THIRD PART, HEADED "RIGHT AND ABUSE," STATES THAT PERU

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HAS NEVER DENIED THE RIGHT OF INNOCENT PASSAGE WITHIN 200 MILES

OF ITS COAST -- BUT THAT THIS ISN'T ENOUGH FOR THE GREAT POWERS. "THEY, EVEN THOUGH THEY DISGUISE THEMSELVES IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING, ONLY WANT TO FISH WITHOUT CONTROL AND PLUNDER OUR MARITIME WEALTH."

4. THE FINAL PART IS HEADED "WE WILL NOT RETREAT." IT LEADS OFF SAYING THAT "THE THREATS LAUNCHED BY MR. KISSINGER ARE NEITHER THE FIRST NOR THE LAST TO BE FORMULATED AGAINST THE IRREVERSIBLE PERUVIAN POSITION..." IT CONTINUES, "THE SWORD OF DAMOCLES HAS BEEN PLACED OVER OUR HEADS IN THE SENSE THAT THE U.S. FLEET IS DISPOSED TO PROTECT 'ITS INTERESTS'..." SINCE THIS "THREAT" COMES FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE, THE EDITORIAL SAYS, "WE MUST NECESSARILY INTERPRET IT AS THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF THE UNITED STATES, UNLESS THEY PRESENT SOME RECTIFICATION OR CLARIFICATION..."

5. COMMENT: APPEARING AS IT DOES IN LA CRONICA, THIS EDITORIAL MAY REFLECT THE GOP'S INITIAL REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH. (AN EQUALLY LENGTHY BUT MORE RESTRAINED EDITORIAL APPEARS IN LA PRENSA UNDER HEADING "DR. KISSINGER DOESN'T HAVE THE LAST WORD.") AS STATED IN REFTEL, WE ARE NOW ACQUAINTING TOP GOP OFFICIALS WITH THE FULL TEXT OF THE SPEECH AND EXPECT SOON TO BE ABLE TO ASCERTAIN IF THE LA CRONICA EDITORIAL REPRESENTS TRUE GOP POSITION.
DEAN

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